

Dana Nichols

From: nafaboard@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Dale Smith [dgsmith@us.ibm.com]
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2007 8:44 AM
To: nafaboard@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [nafaboard] flyball.org-Fw: Board of Directors

From:
"Linda Carter" <Linda@pawsandpets.com>
To:
<flyball@flyball.org>
Date:
08/27/2007 09:33 AM
Subject:
Board of Directors

To NAFA Board of Directors,

Please discuss this question at your next Board meeting so the NAFA community can have a ruling.

Are people who box or line judge allowed to box or line judge sitting on wheelchairs or scooters?

Food for Thought:

I see NO objection to anyone who is handicapped box or line judging!!! However, if a handicapped person wants to assume the risk of box or line judging shouldn't they be required to sit in the same tournament provided chair that all other box or line judges do?

Reasons to consider:

1. The safety of the race dogs should be our first concern! Wheelchairs and scooters stationary at the box or line judges position can pose a serious safety hazard should a dog chasing a bobbled or loose ball collide with such chairs because these chairs have protruding parts (feet rests, spoked wheels, arm rests, etc.) that could seriously harm a dog should it collide with them.
2. All tournaments we have been to have like chairs at all box & line judging positions and none have had protruding parts.

This is not a 'discrimination against the handicapped' issue. It is an issue of safety for our dogs and not having something between the start and finish line (the 102 foot race course) that could pose a serious safety hazard to the race dogs. (NAFA currently doesn't allow people to throw things to their dogs because that could be distracting to other dogs and throwing things could also be considered a safety hazard.)

This issue is only about wheelchairs/scooters being in the stationary box or line judges position (between the start and finish line), which is a restricted area and not open to the public for access, so there should be no issues concerning discrimination against the handicapped. This issue has nothing to do with people in wheelchairs/scooters racing their own

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dogs in Flyball. If a person in a wheelchair/scooter is racing their own dog in Flyball, they are not on any part of the 102 foot race course (between the start line and the finish line) during any actual heat and therefore their wheelchair/scooter should not be a safety hazard to any dogs while those dogs are racing between the start and finish line (on the 102 foot race course).

In the absence of a Board decision on this matter, possibly the NAFA rules could include allowing each team the right to notify the head judge of anything on the 102 foot race course (between the start and finish line) that they feel is a safety hazard or distraction to their racing dogs and the head judge could see that it is removed before the actual racing starts.

Linda Carter

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